

Message Text

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70

ACTION CU-04

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8879

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UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 5598

FOR: USIA FOR ICS/D, ILA; STATE FOR CU

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SCUL, DR

SUBJ: SPEAKER EVALUATION - ALICE BABER, NOVEMBER 9-13

REF: USIA 33539, USIA CM-386

1. COLORIST PAINTER ALICE BABER. VOLSPKR, ICS/DA. "TENDENCIES IN
US ART" WS-03 (PROJECT FULFILLED)

2. VERY GOOD ALL RATINGS WITH EXCEPTION LANGUAGE. NO SPANISH
SO INTERPRETER USED.

3. BABER'S 90 MINUTE FORMAL BNC LECTURE ON CURRENT TRENDS US ART
ILLUSTRATED BY VTR BABER WORK AND BY TRANSPARENCIES GIVING BROAD
SURVEY CONTEMPORARY US ARTISTS ENGAGED IN COLORIST-RELATED WORK.
BABER IS ARTICULATE, WELL-ORGANIZED, KNOWLEDGEABLE. LOCAL LEADING
ARTIST WITH US BACKGROUND PROVIDED GOOD INTERPRETATION FOR
INTRODUCTION OF COLORISM TO LOCAL DOMINICAN SCENE. AUDIENCE OF
EIGHTY FIVE INCLUDED PROMINENT PAINTERS, LEADING ART CRITICS,
GOVERNMENT AND UNIVERSITY OFFICIALS, ART COLLECTORS, BELLAS
ARTES STUDENTS. QUESTIONS FROM LATTER GROUP TENDED TO BE
SUBTLY CRITICAL BUT WERE HANDLED WITH EASE AND DIPLOMACY.
TWO-HOUR WORKSHOP ON TECHNIQUES OF COLOR APPLICATION
FOLLOWING DAY ATTRACTED THIRTY, MAINLY PAINTERS. OTHER
ACTIVITIES INCLUDED VTR INTERVIEW FOR TELEVISION THIS WEEK,
LUNCHEON WITH PRINCIPAL PAINTERS, LUNCHEON WITH DEPUTY FOREIGN
SECRETARY LICELOTT MARTE DE BARRIOS (ACTIVIST IN WOMEN'S
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AFFAIRS) PLUS STUDIO AND GALLERY VISITS.

4. VISIT EXTREMELY WORTHWHILE SEVERAL ASPECTS: INTRODUCED
COLORIST SCHOOL TO DOMREP, SUPPORTED POST'S OBJECTIVE ON
VITALITY OF ARTS, ILLUSTRATED POST RESPONSE TO LOCAL NEEDS.
LEADING ART CRITIC COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS:

"...IN THE CASE OF A LECTURE AND A WORKSHOP GIVEN BY NORTH
AMERICAN PAINTER ALICE BABER, INTEREST WAS GENERATED BY THE
THEMES TREATED AND NOT BY THE ARTIST HERSELF WHO WAS PREVIOUSLY
UNKNOWN HERE...THERE IS A REAL THIRST FOR INFORMATION ABOUT
ARTISTIC DEVELOPMENTS ABROAD AND THIS IS NOT JUST A PASSIVE
INTEREST: A FLOOD OF QUESTIONS FOLLOWED BABER'S PRESENTATION
ABOUT HER OWN WORK AND ABOUT CONTEMPORARY US ART MOVEMENTS.
THE SAME PHENOMENON WAS APPARENT DURING THE WORKSHOP WHEN SHE
EXPLAINED HER TECHNIQUES OF COLOR APPLICATION..."
AXELROD

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